



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 11, No. 3

343 King's Highway East

November, 1968

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TALK ON ORIENTAL RUGS SCHEDULED FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, NOV. 26**

The election of new officers is of first importance at our annual business meeting on the fourth Tuesday of this month. It is especially so this year as this is the end of the four year term for Lou Goetelmann and his achievements for the Society have established a standard of progressiveness which we trust will spur continuity by his successor. Nominees on which the membership will vote are listed on page 4 of this Bulletin.

You will also note a change of meeting place from Friends Meeting House to Indian King Inn. The Lake Street Friends Auditorium had instituted a fee which the trustees considered a little too steep for the budget. Indian King can accommodate about 50 to 60 persons, so come early and be sure of a seat.

We expect a good turnout for our eminent speaker, Miss Jean Gordon Lee, Curator of Far Eastern Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Philadelphia.

Few antiquarians have not desired to know more about oriental rugs, espe-

### **NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 26

**TIME:** 8:00 P. M.

**PLACE:** Indian King Inn

233 King's Highway E.

cially since many of us are owners or would-be owners of these exquisite examples of the ancient art of rug weaving.

At our November meeting, Miss Lee will tell us the history and background of oriental rugs, and will discuss some of the valuable rug collections at the museum as well as the influences of oriental art in this country. Her lecture will be illustrated by colored slides.

Miss Lee is a native Philadelphian, a graduate of the University of Michigan and did graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also consultant in oriental research at the University of Pennsylvania where she taught the History of Chinese Art.

**PRESERVATION EXPERT GIVES GUIDELINES FOR HADDONFIELD**

*Frederick Haupt, 3rd, director of public affairs for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D. C., spoke on "Profits for Preservation" at the symposium "Historic Preservation for Haddonfield?" sponsored by the Haddonfield Preservation Society on November 6 at the Haddon Fortnightly. The following are excerpts from his talk for those who missed this enlightening forum to bring the facts on this much-discussed subject to our community.*

I need hardly point out to you—or to the preservationists among you—that the way of the preservationist is a hard one, choked with bulldozers, concrete-mixers, obtuseness, and devious apostles of "progress".

Preservation today is not simply the saving of old buildings for museum use—or it should not be, in any case. Our objective is to conserve buildings by continuing to use them, if not for their original purpose, then for compatible ones.

We who are concerned with preservation and conservation are often attacked as being opposed to progress. This is simply not the case. What we suggest is that we provide for progress by planning. The preservation movement emphasizes the place of historic and esthetic values in community planning. Any preservation project should be part of a total plan which makes it possible for modern construction and historic preservation to live together harmoniously.

Two weeks ago the National Trust held its annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia. Some of you may have been there. It was a highly successful meeting, attended by more than 900 members of the Trust—and all of us were vastly impressed by what we saw there. The Savannahians are clearly proving two points which the National Trust is constantly making,—and I am trying to make here tonight—namely, that historic preservation has a vital role to play in shaping our total environment, and that, far from being merely an antiquarian pursuit, preservation is—or can be—whacking good business.

That city, once dilapidated and down-at-heel, has been beautifully rehabilitated in the most incredibly short time and with the most exquisite taste.

Savannah is probably unique in having a score of small squares in the old section of the city, each with numerous 19th-century residences around it and usually a monument in the center. Many of the homes surrounding these squares had become slums, and were inhabited by sometimes as many as a dozen families.

But they have been acquired recently by other owners and have been tidied up in the most impressive manner. There is freshly painted ironwork and woodwork, architectural excrescences added since the houses were built have been removed, and the squares present an ensemble that is almost unbelievable, considering the short time in which all this has been accomplished.

When historic Savannah Foundation was founded thirteen years ago, goals were set to direct preservation efforts which many Savannahians—to say the least—did not consider important. Detractors, inevitably, I suppose, called the group "Hysterical Savannah." As these objectives were gradually translated into dynamic and practical programs, the Foundation's activities were grudgingly acknowledged; and now, at last, preservation efforts constitute a legitimate business enterprise. Economic benefits equal to those of the city's most important industries have come into the mainstream of Savannah's life.

Savannah's downtown historic section has been officially designated a Registered National Landmark; and the continuing transformation of the historic district is a growing source of wonder and pride.

A total of 2,800 structures in that area of Savannah have been inventoried, and 1,100 are listed as historic or architectural value. More than 130 historic structures have been reclaimed by Historic Savannah Foundation and another 200 individual restorations have been influenced through the Foundation's efforts. With a relatively small revolving fund, Historic Savannah has purchased these 130-odd buildings and sold them to private owners with the proviso that the buyer faithfully restore the building to its original appearance.

The result has been a good deal more than just esthetically pleasing. More than \$3,000,000.00 already has been invested in preservation and restoration projects, and another \$4,500,000.00 has been committed over a five-year period. Increased buying power has contributed to the stabilization of the downtown shopping district. The millions of dollars invested has added thousands in increased tax revenues to both the city and County. Restoration work has generated millions in construction and related businesses. And, finally, tourism has been stimulated to the degree that Savannah fully expects that a four-year tourist potential of \$120 million will be ultimately realized.

Now, if that isn't good business, I just don't understand the concept!

I think they, and the Savannahians, are doing just about everything that makes sense in historic preservation—good sense socially, economically, and artistically.

These examples indicate, I think, a growing awareness that there is a great deal more to historic preservation than simply keeping lovely houses for lovely people. Unfortunately, this awareness is by far not as widespread as it ought to be—and as it *must* be, if even a crumb of what you and I hold important, the beauty and heritage of this land, our country, is to survive the greed and ugliness that is corroding our cities and our countryside.

I firmly believe that if historic preservation—or perhaps a better term, historic conservation—is to be valid and effective today, it must broaden its outlook, and reach out to the world that knows nothing of, and hence cares nothing for, our past—the past which inevitably shapes our future. If we preservationists do not try to reach the broader audience, the business executive, the labor leader, and particularly state and local officials (and I'm happy to note that we are doing that *tonight*) to explain why preservation and conservation make good sense, we should not be surprised when a highway slashes through a park (to some, a park is the cheapest available land) or a marvelously quixotic 19th-century building is knocked down to provide a bank with a parking lot.

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#### RESTORATION EXPERT ENGAGED TO WORK ON HIP ROOF HOUSE

John D. Milner, architect from Media, Pa. and a distinguished restoration consultant who enthralled our members at the February Candlelight Dinner with his talk on the restoration of early houses in Delaware County, Pa. has been engaged to give the Society a plan for the restoration of the Hip Roof House.

Mr. Milner proposes to use the report

of architect Charles Peterson made a year ago together with photographs taken and donated to the Society by our member, Charles P. Mills, Jr., of hidden portions of the house, now uncovered, and add these to his own knowledge of the construction of early houses.

The work is expected to be accomplished over the fall and winter with the goal of setting up the program for the trustees' approval and a drive to establish funds for this work by the Spring of 1969.

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Haddonfield, New Jersey

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

**OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES HAILED  
FOR SOCIETY ACHIEVEMENTS**

The leadership of our president, Louis H. Goettelmann, and the officers and trustees who worked with him in the four years of his presidency, comes to a close with the election of new officers at the coming annual business meeting.

This Bulletin wishes to cite a few of the many accomplishments and achievements under this leadership.

A milestone was reached when the Hip Roof House was moved from Ellis Street to next door to Greenfield Hall.

Under Lou's guidance we held several successful tours of Haddonfield homes, the standard of which has been complimented and emulated by other organizations.

He has been responsible for some of our finest speakers at Society meetings, many of whom came because of their personal and professional friendship with our president.

In the last four years, Greenfield Hall has gradually improved its collections and the Society has increased its membership.

Altogether it was a progressive four years for the Society in the fields of preservation, acquisitions, membership, programs, and special fund-raising events.

**NOMINEES FOR ANNUAL ELECTION  
OF OFFICERS, TRUSTEES**

At the November 26 meeting, members will be asked to vote on the following nominees for office. The nominee for president to succeed Louis H. Goettelmann was not filled as this Bulletin went to press. In the event that it is not filled by the election the outgoing president will serve as acting president until a nominee is selected by the nominating committee which is comprised of the present officers and the past president, Martha Goettelmann.

President ..... (unfilled)  
First Vice President Charles H. Evans  
Corres. Secy. Mrs. Edw. W. Jennings  
Treasurer ..... Mrs. Wm. H. Stow, Jr.

**TRUSTEES (Terms expire 1971)**

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Mr. Robert Y. Garrett, Jr.  
Mr. David S. Lenhart  
Mr. Robert M. Tatem  
Mr. Donald S. Willis

Mrs. James G. Aiken, Editor  
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